

water facts 3

Adjudicated Groundwater Basins

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California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Publications Office
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-1097
imr-publications@water.ca.gov

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Because the State of California is not authorized by the California Water code to manage groundwater, The Legislature has created nine groundwater management agencies to pass groundwater extraction ordinances and has authorized groundwater replenishment fees in 22 water agencies.



The court decisions appointed a Watermaster to oversee the court judgment and specifies how much each of the parties to the decision can extract.

Watermasters have authority to regulate the groundwater extraction quantity; however, the court decisions omitted authority to regulations to protect water quality or to prevent the spread of contaminants in the groundwater. Watermasters must also manage for quality.

How much water can I extract?

In some basins, the amount of water that can be extracted under that correlative right has been defined by a court. In basins where each landowners correlative right has not been defined, groundwater may be managed by agencies that obtain their authority from the Water Code, or there may be little or no management.

What rights do landowners have?

In the case of disputes, landowners and other parties overlying groundwater basins have used the courts. Litigants pay for court-directed studies, using the available data, to arrive at an equitable annual distribution of groundwater.

Although this court-directed process can be lengthy and costly, some of these cases have been resolved with a court-approved negotiated settlement, called a stipulated judgment. Unlike overlying and non-overlying right to groundwater, such decisions guarantee each party a proportionate share of the groundwater.

How are the boundaries defined?

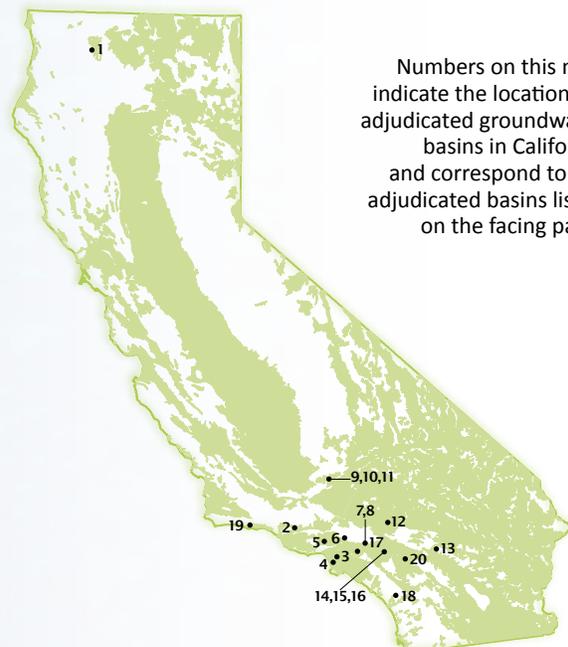
The basin boundaries are defined by the court. Some boundaries do not include the entire basin as defined in Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater.

When are there exceptions to limits?

Extraction may exceed the defined limit as a part of the operating range.

Do limits create an excess of water?

Although adjudication has reduced the amount of groundwater that is extracted, the total amount of water consumed has continued to increase. As a result, agencies operating in adjudicated basins must import surface water and are looking for water sources to meet the increasing demand.



Numbers on this map indicate the locations of adjudicated groundwater basins in California and correspond to the adjudicated basins listed on the facing page.

	Court Name	Filed Final	Watermaster	County	No.	DWR Bulletin 118 Basin Name
1	Scott River Stream System	1970 1980	Department of Water Resources	Siskiyou	1-5	Scott River Valley
2	Santa Paula Basin	1991 1996	Three-person Technical Advisory Committee from United Water CD, City of Ventura, and Santa Paula Basin Pumpers Association www.unitedwater.org	Ventura	4-4.04	Santa Paula subbasin of the Santa Clara River basin
3	Central Basin	1962 1965	DWR, Southern District www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sd/watermaster/watermaster.html	Los Angeles	4-11.04	Northeast part of Coastal Plain of Los Angeles County Basin
4	West Coast Basin	1946 1961	DWR, Southern District www.dpla.water.ca.gov/sd/watermaster/watermaster.html	Los Angeles	4-11.04	Southwest part of Coastal Plain of Los Angeles County Basin
5	Upper Los Angeles River Area	1955 1979	Superior Court appointee	Los Angeles	4-12	San Fernando Valley Basin, entire watershed
6	Raymond Basin	1937 1944	Raymond Basin Management Board	Los Angeles	4-23	Northwest part of San Gabriel Valley Basin
7	Main San Gabriel Basin, Puente Narrows, Addendum to Main San Gabriel Basin decision	1968 1973 1972 1972	Water purveyors and water districts elect a nine-member board www.watermaster.org	Los Angeles	4-13	San Gabriel Valley Basin, excluding Raymond Basin
8	Puente Basin	1985 1985	Two consulting engineers	Los Angeles	4-13	San Gabriel Valley Basin, excluding Raymond Basin
9	Cummings Basin	1966 1972	Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District www.tccwd.com/gwm.htm	Kern	5-27	Cummings Valley Basin
10	Tehachapi Basin	1966 1973	Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District www.tccwd.com/gwm.htm	Kern	5-28, 6-45	Tehachapi Valley West Basin, Tehachapi Valley East Basin
11	Brite Basin	1966 1970	Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District www.tccwd.com/gwm.htm	Kern	5-80	Brite Valley
12	Mojave Basin Area Adjudication	1990 1996	Mojave Water Agency www.mojavewater.org/mwa700.htm	San Bernardino	6-40-43, 7-19	Lower, Middle & Upper Mojave River Valley Basins, El Mirage & Lucerne Valleys
13	Warren Valley Basin	1976 1977	Hi-Desert Water District www.mojavewater.org	San Bernardino	7-12, 8-2	Part of Warren Valley Basin, Northwest part of Upper Santa Ana Valley Basin
14	Chino Basin	1975 1978	Nine people, recommended by producers and appointed by the court. www.cbwm.org	San Bernardino Riverside	8-2	Northwest part of Upper Santa Ana Valley Basin
15	Cucamonga Basin	1958 1958	Adjudicated separately; watermaster appointed. Operated as part of Chino Basin.	San Bernardino	8-2	North central part of Upper Santa Ana Basin
16	San Bernardino Basin Area	1963 1969	One representative from: Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	San Bernardino Riverside	8-2	Northeast part of Upper Santa Ana Basin
17	Six Basins	1998 1998	Nine-member board representing all parties to the judgement	Los Angeles San Bernardino	4-14, 8-2	Six sub-basins in northwest upper Santa Ana Valley, Upper & Lower Claremont Heights, Canyon, Pomona, Live Oak & Ganessa
18	Santa Margarita River Watershed	1951 1966	U.S. District Court appointee	San Diego Riverside	9-4, 9-5, 9-6	Three basins: Santa Margarita Valley, Temecula Valley and Cahuilla Valley Basins
19	Goleta	1973 1989	Goleta Water District	Santa Barbara	3-16	Goleta Central Basin, judgement includes North Basin
20	Beaumont Basin	2003 2004	Directors of Public Work for the Cities of Banning and Beaumont, the General Managers of Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, South Mesa Mutual Water Company, and Yucaipa Valley Water District		8-2.08, 8-2, 7-21.04, 7-21	Parts of the San Timoteo Subbasin of the Upper Santa Ana Valley Groundwater Basin, the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin

Note: Grayed basins indicate restricted pumping.

Note: In Bulletin 118-80, Cahuilla Valley (No. 9-6) is spelled differently.

Where can I get more information?

www.dwr.water.ca.gov

Northern Region

2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080-2398
(530) 529-7300

North Central Region

901 P Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-0725

South Central Region

3374 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-6990
(559) 230-3300

Southern Region

770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 102
Glendale, CA 91203-1035
(818) 500-1645

Statewide Integrated Water Management

901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-3515
(916) 651-9649

References

See the Watermaster web sites listed on pages 3.